

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3264
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1719

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PFOR, TC, JA
SUBJECT : PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN JAPAN CARRYING UAE DIPLOMATIC PASS

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PORT

REF: STATE 175269

1. CHARGE HAD OCCASION AUGUST 18 DURING GENERAL CONVERSATION WITH ABDULLA MAZRUI, UNDER SECRETARY MFA, ON NUMBER OF SUBJECTS TO RAISE QUESTION OF UAE DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT ISSUED TO PLO REP MANSUUR. (MAZRUI HAS BEEN ACTION MAN IN MINISTRY ON THIS SUBJECT AND AT MOMENT IS SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN COUNTRY.) MAZRUI IMMEDIATELY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UAE DIP PASSPORT HAD BEEN KNOWLINGLY ISSUED TO MANSUUR. MAZRUI NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PURPOSE WAS ONLY TO FACILITATE PLO REP'S TRAVEL AND THAT PASSPORT WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE USED CONNECTION WITH OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION TO GOJ ON QUESTION OF PLO OFFICE IN JAPAN. MAZRUI STATED HE HAD GIVEN SIMILAR ASSURANCES TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HERE WHEN HE HAD RAISED MATTER AND THAT HE (MAZRUI) HAD LIKEWISE CALLED IN LOCAL PLO REP TO WARN HIM THAT IF UAEG EFFORTS ASSIST PLO WERE SIMILARLY ABUSED IN FUTURE, PLO COULD LOOK ELSEWHERE WHEN IT DESIRED PASSPORTS FOR ITS REPS. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY, MAZRUI STATED THAT IN PRESENT INSTANCE PARTICULARS OF PASSPORT (NAME, DATE
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OF BIRTH) HAD BEEN FACTUAL--THERE HAD BEEN NO DELIBERATE

ATTEMPT MADE CONCEAL IDENTITY INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR ODAKA, LATTER CONFIRMED HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH MAZRU'I. ODAKA STATED THAT MAZRU'I HAD SHOWN APPARENTLY GENUINE SURPRISE AT ACTIVITIES OF MANSUUR IN JAPAN AND EVEN AT FACT THAT MANSUUR HAD OBTAINED VISA FOR JAPAN IN CAIRO. MAZRU'I GAVE ODAKA ASSURANCES SIMILAR THOSE HE GAVE ME ABOUT UAEG LIMITED INTENTIONS IN ISSUING SUCH PASSPORT, BUT DID NOT MENTION TO ODAKA CHASTISING LOCAL PLO REP (SUCH ACTION COULD WELL HAVE COME AFTER ODAKA'S CALL). AS TO ACCURACY OF INFORMATION RE MANSUUR CONTAINED IN PASSPORT, ODAKA SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THIS POINT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE UAE POLICY RE ISSUANCE ITS DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS IS CLEARLY NOT ALL THAT WE WOULD DESIRE, AS DESCRIBED BY MAZRU'I IN THIS LATEST INSTANCE IT REMAINS CONSISTENT WITH THAT EXPRESSED BY FONMIN SUWAIDI TO AMBASSADOR STERNER IN WAKE OF INCIDENT LAST NOVEMBER (ABU DHABI 1617 NOV 74). UAEG WILL CONTINUE TO ISSUE ITS PASSPORTS TO PLO REPS TO "FACILITATE TRAVEL." IT WILL PRESUMABLY NO LONGER FALSIFY DATA IN PASSPORTS DESCRIBING SUCH INDIVIDUALS (ALTHOUGH AT SAME TIME IT WILL NOT GO SO FAR AS TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL AS PLO REP). AND HOPEFULLY, IN LIGHT OF JAPAN EXPERIENCE, IT WILL EXERCISE BIT MORE CONTROL OVER WHAT CONSTITUTES FACILITATION OF TRAVEL. MORE THAN THIS WE CANNOT EXPECT. IN SHORT, EVERY UAE DIPLOMATIC (AND OTHER) PASSPORT SHOULD BE EXAMINED WITH CARE AND APPROPRIATE CHECKS MADE BEFORE VISA IS ISSUED.
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